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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/671,668	09/29/2003	Heinz Kettler	P24187	1529
EXAMINER				
WINNER, TONY H				
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
3611				

DATE MAILED: 12/01/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/671,668

Applicant(s)

KETTLER ET AL.

Examiner

Tony H. Winner

Art Unit

3611

NW

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 07 September 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-54 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 12-15, 28, 29 and 47-50 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11, 16-23, 25-27, 30-46 and 51-54 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 24 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. 09/584,497.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 9/29/03 & 7/19/04
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Election

1. Applicant's elect species II, corresponding to figures 7-17, with traverse is acknowledged. The traverse is on ground that the claims are not generic to both species. The office is agreeing with the applicant and therefore, claims 1-54 will be examined. An action on the merits follows.

Claim Objections

2. Claims 28 and 50 are objected to because of the following informalities:
- a. Claim 28 last line the words "is moves" should be changed to – is moved—
 - b. It appears that claim 50 is depended of claim 47 and not 'claim 40' as recited.
- Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-11, 16-23, 25-26, 30-33, 37-46, and 51-53 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chi (US. patent 5,573,262) in view of Jeunet et al (US. patent 6,082,754).

Chi discloses a vehicle steering head comprising:

- a. a support tube adapted to be fixed to a frame;
- b. a connecting member adapted to connect a wheel fork to a handlebar;
- c. an upper bearing support mounted to an upper end of the support tube; and
- d. a lower bearing support mounted to a lower end of the support tube,

the connecting member being rotatably mounted to the support tube via the upper and lower bearing supports; wherein the mechanism and the lower bearing support cooperate to limit the rotational movement of the connecting member.

Chi lacks a mechanism which limits the rotational movement of the connecting in two directions.

Jeunet discloses steering blocking mechanism that limits the rotational movement of the connecting in two directions so as to provide better control of the steering system.

Based on the teaching of Jeunet, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the steering assembly of Chi to include the blocking mechanism of Jeunet so as to provide better control of the steering system.

With respect to claims 2-11, 18-20, 22-23, 25-27, 31-33, 38-41, 43-44, and 46 Chi as modified by Jeunet discloses all of the claimed limitations.

4. Claims 34-36 and 54 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chi (US. patent 5,573,262) in view of Kassai (US. patent 4,714,261).

~~Chi is disclosed above but lacks the teaching of a locking mechanism.~~

Kassai teaches a locking mechanism for a vehicle comprising: a mechanism that limits rotational movement of the connecting element the mechanism comprising at least two stop surfaces; one of the at least two stop surfaces limiting the rotation of the connecting element in one direction, another of the at least two stop surfaces limiting the rotation of the connecting element in another direction, and a locking system that prevents rotational movement of the connecting element, the locking system comprising a movable engaging member and an opening that can receive the engaging member and which can move with the connecting element. Such a mechanism would allow or inhibiting the turning movement of the front wheel, thus, providing greater safety measure.

Based on the teaching of Kassai, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the steering assembly of Chi to include the blocking mechanism of Kassai so as to provide better control of the steering system.

With regard to claims 35-36, Chi as modified by Kassai meets all of the claimed limitations.

Reasons for Allowance

5. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Claims 12-14 are allowed because the prior art neither shows nor teaches a vehicle steering head with a locking mechanism comprises a recessed and projection

portions along with its location and in combination with other elements recited.

Claim 15 is allowed because the prior art neither shows nor teaches a vehicle steering head with locking mechanism wherein the mudguard rotates with the linkage element that engages the lower bearing support and in combination with other elements recited.

Claim 28 is allowed because the prior art neither shows nor teaches a vehicle steering head with locking mechanism wherein the one part is a projection and the another part is a guiding recess within which the projection is moved and in combination with other elements recited.

Claim 29 is allowed because the prior art neither shows nor teaches a vehicle steering head with locking mechanism wherein the pin moves in a parallel direction relative to an axis of the support tube, and the opening is configured to rotate with the cylindrical member and in combination with other elements recited.

Claims 47-50 are allowed because the prior art neither shows nor teaches a vehicle steering head with locking mechanism comprises a pin and an opening, wherein in a parallel direction relative to an axis of the support tube, and the opening is configured to rotate with the cylindrical member and in combination with other elements recited.

Allowable Subject Matter

6. Claim 24 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Conclusion

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communication from the examiner should be directed to Anthony H. Winner whose telephone number is (703) 306-5957. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 9:30 am to 6:30 pm. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Lesley Morris, can be reached at (703) 308-0629. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

8. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information-Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll free).

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-1113.


TONY WINNER
PATENT EXAMINER

November 27, 2004